

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A Method of cutting and machining a continuous strip of sheet metal, the method comprising the steps of:

- feeding out a continuous strip of sheet metal,

- cutting the continuous strip into finite lengths by making a wave shaped cut between each length and the immediately subsequent length thereby leaving the forward edge and the following edge of each sheet metal length wave shaped, wherein the wave shaped edges are wave shaped waste portions.

- firmly holding in a subsequent operation, said forward and following wave shaped edges of each length by means of clamps covering clamping at least the wave shaped forward and following edges of each sheet metal length, and

- machining the exposed portion of each said firmly held length by pressing, stamping or die cutting, and

- removing the wave shaped waste portions from each length.

2. – 7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) The Method according to claim 1, wherein the continuous strip is cut perpendicularly with respect to the feeding direction.

9. (Currently Amended) The Method according to claim 1, wherein the continuous strip is cut obliquely with respect to the feeding direction.

10. (Currently Amended) The Method according to claim 1, wherein the wave shaped edge portions are sinusoidal.

11. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the machining is performed before removing the wave shaped waste portions.

12. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the removing involves cutting the wave shaped waste portions from each length.

13. (New) A method comprising:
feeding a strip of sheet metal,
making wave shaped cuts in the strip of sheet metal to provide a length of sheet metal having a leading wave shaped edge and a trailing wave shaped edge,
while clamping the leading and the trailing wave shaped edges, deforming the length of sheet metal, and
removing the leading and the trailing wave shaped edges from the deformed length of sheet metal.